LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following claims replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27. (CANCELED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system ~~for processing transactions,~~ comprising the following components:

(i) a customer transceiver comprising memory, wherein said customer transceiver generates operating power after receiving a first radio frequency signal and subsequently transmits a second radio frequency signal that conveys a customer/transmitter identifier;

(ii) a merchant transceiver, comprised of a transceiver antenna, ~~for providing operating power to~~ that (a) sends said first radio frequency signal to said customer transceiver and ~~for exchanging~~ (b) receives ~~information with~~ said second radio frequency signal conveying said customer/transmitter identifier from said customer transceiver ~~when said customer transceiver is placed in close proximity, to said merchant transceiver~~;

(iii) a point-of-sale device processor, ~~coupled to~~ in communication with said merchant transceiver, ~~for capturing~~ that (a) captures transaction data, ~~combining~~ (b) combines the transaction data with said ~~a received~~ customer/transmitter identifier ~~ID number~~ and a merchant identifier to form an authorization request, and ~~transmitting~~ (c) transmits the authorization request to a transaction processing system; and

(iv) a transaction processing system comprising~~:~~ a memory having program instructions~~;~~, and a processor configured to use said program instructions to~~:~~ (a) receive said authorization request~~;~~, (b) determine, from said customer/transmitter identifier ~~identification data~~ and merchant identifier, a payment processor ~~that corresponds to said merchant identifier;~~, (c) transmit ~~said~~ an authorization request to said payment processor for authorization~~;~~ and (d) transmit to ~~one of~~ said ~~plurality of~~ point-of-sale devices said payment processor's response to said authorization request.

29-30. (CANCELED)

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim ~~29~~ 28, wherein said customer transceiver is further comprised of a processor coupled to said memory~~,~~ wherein said processor is adapted to read data from, and write data to, said memory.

32. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 31, wherein said customer transceiver is further comprised of a security pad operable to capture biometric data and to convert said data into an electronic representation of said data.

33. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32, wherein said biometric data is a fingerprint.

34. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32, wherein said biometric data is a palm print.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 32, wherein said customer transceiver processor is adapted to: compare an electronic representation of biometric data with a digital image stored in said customer transceiver memory; and transmit said ~~transmitter ID or said customer ID~~ customer/transmitter identifier when said captured biometric data is identical to said digital image stored in said customer transceiver memory.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 31, wherein said customer transceiver processor is adapted to: compare a transaction amount with a dollar amount stored in said customer transceiver memory; and inhibit transmission of said ~~transmitter ID and said customer ID~~ customer/transmitter identifier when said transaction amount is greater than said dollar amount.

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 31, wherein said customer transceiver processor is adapted to subtract a transaction amount from a dollar amount stored in said customer transceiver memory when said transaction is authorized.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim ~~29~~ 28, wherein said customer transceiver is further comprised of: a processor coupled to the memory; and a keyboard coupled to the processor; wherein said processor is operable to transmit information stored in said memory, or manually entered via said keyboard.

39. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 28 wherein said customer transceiver is embedded inside an article of clothing.

40. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 28 wherein said customer transceiver is embedded inside an item of jewelry.

41. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 28 wherein said customer transceiver is embedded inside an electronic device.

42. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 28 wherein said merchant transceiver is further comprised of: a processor coupled to the transceiver; and a keyboard coupled to the processor; wherein said processor is operable to receive information manually entered into said keyboard or received via said transceiver.

43. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 42, wherein said merchant transceiver is further comprised of a display device for displaying information to a user.

44. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 42, wherein said merchant transceiver is further comprised of a printer for printing a receipt.

45. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 42, wherein said merchant transceiver is further comprised of a memory operable to store information relating to a transaction.

46. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 42, wherein said merchant transceiver is further comprised of a communication interface for communicating with external computing devices.

47. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 46, wherein said communication interface provides wireless connectivity to a point-of-sale device.

48. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 46, wherein said communication interface provides connectivity to a CATV network.

49. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 46, wherein said communication interface provides connectivity to the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

50. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 46, wherein said communication interface provides connectivity to a self-service vending machine or pay telephone.

51. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~for processing a purchase transactions,~~ comprising the following steps:

(i) transmitting a first radio frequency signal to a customer transceiver that generates operating power after receiving said first radio frequency signal;

(ii) subsequently transmitting, from said customer transceiver a second radio frequency signal that conveys customer identification data;

(iii) receiving ~~a~~ said second radio frequency signal including said customer identification data at a receiver~~, said radio frequency signal comprising customer identification data~~;

(iv) creating an authorization request based ~~at least~~ in part upon the receipt of the customer identification data, the authorization request comprising~~:~~ a merchant identifier, transaction data and the customer identification data;

(v) communicating the authorization request to a transaction processor;

(vi) ~~processing the authorization request~~ selecting a payment processor at the transaction processor based at least in part upon ~~database~~ information associated with the customer identification data ~~or~~ and the merchant identifier ~~and~~ stored in a database accessible by ~~a~~ the transaction processor; and

(vii) communicating ~~the purchase transaction for~~ with the selected payment processor for approval and payment.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 51 further comprising communicating said customer identification data to a point of sale device.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 52 wherein said customer identification data is communicated to said point of sale device and said point of sale device is coupled to said receiver.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 52 wherein said customer identification data is communicated to said point of sale device and said point of sale device is integral with said receiver.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 51, further comprising: processing the purchase transaction for approval and payment.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 51 wherein communicating the authorization request to a transaction processor further comprises encrypting the authorization request.

57. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 51 wherein the database information ~~further~~ comprises ~~a~~ preassigned payment method(s) associated with

the customer identification data and merchant identifier and~~;~~ the processing of the authorization request at the transaction processor further comprises processing the purchase transaction according to ~~the~~ a preassigned payment method.

58. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The payment method of claim 57 wherein the preassigned payment method(s) ~~is~~ are preselected by a customer.

59. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 57 wherein the preassigned payment method is associated with a merchant and the preassigned payment method may vary for transactions with different merchants.

60-62. (CANCELED)

63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 52 wherein the point of sale device is coupled to a security device that prevents unauthorized use of the transceiver.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 63 wherein the security device further comprises a biometric recording device.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 52 further comprising: inputting a password or Personal Identification Number (PIN) into a security device in communication with said point of sale device.

66. - 82. (CANCELED)

83. (NEWLY ADDED) The system of claim 28 wherein said customer/transmitter identifier does not contain a customer's credit card or debit card number.

84. (NEWLY ADDED) The system of claim 51 wherein said customer identification data does not contain a customer's credit card or debit card number.

85. (NEWLY ADDED) A device comprising the following components: memory; a security pad that captures biometric data and converts said data into an electronic representation of said data; a processor; and a transceiver, wherein said device generates operating power after receiving a first radio frequency signal from another transceiver and subsequently sends a second radio frequency signal containing customer identification data.

86. (NEWLY ADDED) The device of claim 85 wherein said processor compares an electronic representation of biometric data with digital image(s) stored in said memory and only transmits said customer identification data when said captured biometric data is identical to a digital image stored in said memory.

87. (NEWLY ADDED) A device comprising the following components: memory; a processor; and a radio frequency transceiver, wherein said memory stores a dollar amount and wherein said device (a) generates operating power after receiving a first radio frequency signal from another transceiver, (b) compares a transaction amount with said stored dollar amount and (c) sends a second radio frequency signal containing customer identification data.

88. (NEWLY ADDED) The device in claim 87 where said second radio frequency signal is inhibited if said transaction amount is greater than said stored dollar amount.

89. (NEWLY ADDED) A device comprising the following components: memory; and a transceiver, wherein said memory stores automatic teller machine (ATM) card information and wherein said device generates operative power and transmits said information after receiving a radio frequency signal from another transceiver.

90. (NEWLY ADDED) A method comprising the following steps:

(i) sending a first radio frequency signal to a customer transceiver that generates operating power after receiving said first radio frequency signal;

(ii) receiving a second radio frequency signal conveying automatic teller machine (ATM) card information from said customer transceiver; and

(iii) prompting the customer to input his/her personal identification number and transaction information.